

Remarks

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed February 10, 2004. In the Action, the Examiner considered claims 15-20 and 24-30, of which claims 20 and 27 have been withdrawn from consideration. The Office allowed claims 15, 19, 25, 26, and 28-30, and rejected claims 16-18 and 24. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Specification

The Office maintained its objection to Figure 34 under M.P.E.P. § 2422.02, third paragraph, which requires that sequences be identified either in the drawing or in the Brief Description of the Drawings. In response, Applicants have amended the Brief Description of the Drawings, as required by the cited M.P.E.P. section. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection.

The Office also objected to the Brief Description of Figures 24 and 25 because of the mistaken reference to Figure 22. In response, Applicants have made the appropriate amendments to the specification.

The Office also objected to the specification for failing to update the reference to earlier filed U.S. applications.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office rejected claims 16-18 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as lacking antecedent basis in the recitation of "said protein," "the protein," and "the polypeptide." In response, Applicants have amended the claims to even more clearly recite the claimed invention. Applicants submit that the amendments obviate the rejections and respectfully request their withdrawal.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims under consideration are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and re-examination of this application, and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss actions that may be taken to place this application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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